

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action mailed November 4, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner: (1) withdrew the previous allowance of the claims and the finality of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005; (2) rejected claims 7-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; (3) allowed claims 2-6, 11, and 18; and (4) indicated claims 7-10 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 2-11, 18, and 19. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-11, 18, and 19 will remain pending. Of these claims, claims 2, 4, 5, 11, 18, and 19 are independent. Claim 1 was previously canceled in the "Amendment" filed February 10, 2004, and claims 12-17 were previously canceled in the "Amendment After Final" filed April 12, 2005.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to claims 2-11, 18, and 19. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 2-6, 11, and 18. Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-10 and 19.

Based on the foregoing amendments, Applicants traverse the rejection above and respectfully request reconsideration for at least the reasons that follow.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 REJECTION

The Examiner's rejection of claims 7-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, has been rendered moot in view of the amendments made to claims 7 and 19. Applicants

therefore request that the rejection of claims 7-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, be withdrawn and claims 7-10 and 19 be allowed.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11, 18, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

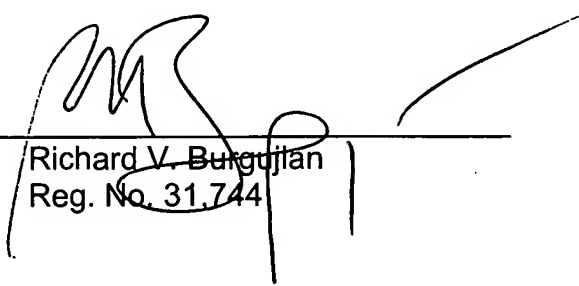
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 3, 2006

By: _____


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